

ova were laid from the abs. and about 35 from the typical. Most of the ova were again laid around the top rim of the cage and had to be removed as before.

The larvae were this time fed on a small creeping grass which seemed less attractive to aphid than *Poa annua*; the larvae thrived on it, and it over-winters well.

The larvae were seen feeding after dark on several occasions during the milder weather of December and January. On 1st January, I measured a number of larvae, which were from 4-7 mm. long. The larvae were left outdoors throughout the bitterly cold spell which started at the end of January and went on into February. Soon after, it turned milder, the larvae were again seen feeding, so it seems that they do not hibernate properly but just become dormant during cold periods and recommence feeding when the weather is mild enough. This is contrary to what F. W. Frohawk found, for in his book *The Complete Book of British Butterflies* he states that they enter hibernation during October and remain motionless until spring.

The F2 generation started to hatch towards the end of June, and continued well into July. From the pairing between aberrant parents I had hatched six typical males, seven male abs., seven typical females, 21 female abs. From the pairing between typical F1 parents I had hatched two typical males, seven male abs., three typical females, three female abs.

The abs. ranged much the same as in the F1 generation, but several of the females (Figs. 7-10) were rather better, having white pupils in several cases. The males had disappointingly small spots (Figs. 5, 6).

The fact that a number of typical specimens hatched from a pairing between two aberrations, rules out this as a recessive form, for if so it should have given a pure strain of abs. I think it fairly safe to say, therefore, that from my breeding results ab. *excessa* is multi-factorial, and similar to ab. *arete* Müller of the Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus* L.).

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MIGRANT LEPIDOPTERA IN HEREFORDSHIRE IN 1976. — A single male *Nycterosea obstipata* F. appeared at light in Ledbury as early as the night of 22nd/23rd May, 1976, in company with three *Plusia gamma* L. No further migrants were noted until a single *Colias croceus* Fourc. was seen near Woolhope on 28th July, and a further specimen was observed near Leominster on 31st August. *Macroglossum stellatarum* L. was noted by several observers during late August in Herefordshire, while I had a single worn *Herse convolvuli* L. at light on 19th/20th August. As far as I know no *Nymphalis antiopa* L. were seen in this county, but I was pleased to see a worn male *Catocala fraxini* L. at light in my garden on the night of 31st August/1st September, and the only example of the exceptional wave of immigrant lepidoptera from the east to appear here. — Dr. M. W. HARPER, Cherry Orchard, Bullen, Ledbury, Herefordshire.